ABSTRACT

Service Allocation and Assigning Method and Program therefor

A computer sever-based process for matching users of a messaging system requiring a particular service to those users of the same messaging system who have identified themselves as being capable of providing such a service is described. Practically, a messaging service provider (MSP) provides a messaging server connected to the internet on which calendaring functions are offered to users of the MSP in the wider internet community. The users requiring a service create an item in the messaging system including descriptive textual information concerning the service required and one or more proposed times and dates when that service would ideally be required. In accordance with the invention, those users of the MSP wanting to offer services also create items including descriptive textual information concerning the service provided and a plurality of times when said service is capable of being provided, whereafter a routine is executed which effects the following:
- a query string is derived from the textual and time and date information entered by the user requiring a service
- said query string is used to query the messaging system database to extract relevant records identifying users offering a service of the type described and available at the relevant time and date
- the information retrieved from the database is returned to the user requiring a service with information identifying the said users offering said service.